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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,841	11/16/2001	Tsutomu Hara	501.40846X00	7570

20457 7590 07/16/2003

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EXAMINER

THOMPSON, ANNETTE M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2825

DATE MAILED: 07/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/987,841

Applicant(s)

HARA ET AL.

Examin r

A. M. Thompson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2001 - 19 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 November 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 19 February 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This application 09/987,841 has been examined. Claims 1-12 are pending.

1. Examiner appreciates the initiative taken by Applicants in submitting a preliminary amendment to correct drawing and specification informalities.

Drawings

2. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on 19 February 2002. These drawings are approved.
3. The drawings are objected to because In Figures 1, 9, 12, and 13, Applicant hyphenates words, however many of the hyphenated word are syllabically incorrect. Applicants are encouraged to review these drawings and make the necessary corrections. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The claims are directed to circuit simulation over or through use of a network.

Claim Objections

5. **Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, and 12** are objected to because of the following informalities: Pursuant to **claim 3**, at line 4, before "indicating", clarify whether "each" modifies *circuit model* or *device model*. Pursuant to **claims 4, 7, 8, 11, and 12**, the

same objection and clarification applies as in claim 3, supra. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Rejection of claims 1-12

7. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Burrows et al., U.S. Patent 6,397,117. Burrows discloses a distributed computer aided design system and method (Fig. 1; col. 1, line 62 to col. 2, line 17).

8. Pursuant to claim 1, Burrows teaches a circuit simulation method for carrying out operation simulation of an electronic circuit through a network (col. 1, 2; see also Fig. 2), said circuit simulation method comprising the steps of sending, from a first information processing apparatus connected with said network (Figs. 2, 3; col. 4), circuit data indicating characteristics of said electronic circuit (Fig. 5; col. 3, ll. 14-24) through said network; receiving said circuit data at a second information processing apparatus connected with said network (Figs. 3,4; col. 4, ll. 50-54), said second information processing apparatus being arranged that circuit models describing electronic circuit operations are stored to enable operational simulation thereon (col. 4, ll. 54-61);

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carrying out operational simulation of said electronic circuit at said second information processing apparatus using said circuit models and said circuit data and sending results of said operational simulation from said second information processing apparatus through said network (cols. 4 and 5).

9. Pursuant to claim 2, wherein at said step of sending results of the operational simulation, the results are sent to the first information processing apparatus from the second information processing apparatus through the network (Fig. 3 illustrates this limitation).

10. Pursuant to claim 3, wherein each of the circuit models includes device models (col. 2, ll. 57-65; col. 4, ll. 5-14).

11. Pursuant to claim 4, wherein each of the device models includes transistor models (col. 2, ll. 57-65; col. 4, ll. 5-14)..

12. Pursuant to claim 5, this independent claim incorporates the limitations of claim 1 and additionally teaches a circuit simulation apparatus. Burrows additionally discloses this feature and therefore claim 5 is likewise rejected based on the same reasoning as claim 1.

13. Pursuant to claims 6-8, these claims incorporate the limitations previously rejected in claims 2-4 and therefore claims 6-8 are likewise rejected based on the same reasoning.

14. Pursuant to claim 9, this independent claim incorporates the limitations of claim 1 and additionally teaches a computer program product storable on a storage medium.

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Burrows additionally discloses this feature and therefore claim 9 is likewise rejected based on the same reasoning as claim 1.

15. Pursuant to claims 10-12, these claims incorporate the limitations previously rejected in claims 2-4 and therefore claims 10-12 are likewise rejected based on the same reasoning.

Conclusion

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Please reference the PTO-892 for a complete listing.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to A.M. Thompson whose telephone number is (703) 305-7441. The Examiner can usually be reached Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Smith, can be reached on (703) 308-1323.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956 or the Customer Service Center whose telephone number is (703)306-3329.

18. Responses to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9318, (for **OFFICIAL** communications intended for entry)

(703)872-9319, (for Official **AFTER-FINAL** communications)

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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Plaza 4, 2021 South Clark Place, Arlington, VA., Fourth Floor (Receptionist).



A.M. THOMPSON
Patent Examiner

30 June 2003